

FY21 ALTER-CASAR Amendment #5 (Victim Services)

Sponsors: CMs Alter and Casar

Strategic Outcome(s): Safety, Health & Environment

Increasing Resources and Staffing for Victim Services

The Victim Services division is currently composed of 31 city-funded trained counselors and one administrative staff position who serve over 8,400 victims/survivors each year. The department is currently understaffed and is unable to respond to all domestic violence calls. Especially with rising domestic violence rates during this pandemic, additional counselors are crucial to our community.

This amendment will improve our system of care for victims and survivors by allocating funding for additional FTEs and the equipment the counselors need to provide vital services. The total sum of needs exceeds the budgetary request in this proposal, and we anticipate need for future investments next year.

We also ask the City Manager to consider restructuring the Victim Services Manager to an elevated status in our executive leadership as the conversations about reimagining public safety continue.

Details

Increase Victim Services Staff and Resources

Add three (3) new Victim Services Counselors

\$272,329.35 for 3 FTEs

Adding additional victim services counselors will provide the ability for counselors to respond to all domestic violence calls and improve co-response times to sexual assault calls.

Add one (1) new Victim Services Supervisor

\$102,966 for 1 FTE

A new supervisor position is needed to oversee and coordinate the daily activities of counselors, develop counselors' skills and approaches, and supervise all interns.

One-time costs for related equipment

\$80,000 for radios, vehicle, Mobile Data Computer, uniforms, etc.

The one-time costs cover necessary equipment for new FTEs, such as uniforms, radios, work stations, a new vehicle, car seats, and a Mobile Data Computer for the new vehicle so counselors can access case information

Provide funding for intern stipends

\$30,000 annually for 6 interns per semester

Social work interns are recommended for assignment to the domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes investigative units, and interns will receive a stipend of \$2,500 per semester.

Emergency Assistance Fund for Victims/Survivors

\$15,000 annually

Victim Services will receive a recurring budget for an emergency assistance fund to provide emergency assistance (hotel rooms, groceries, bus passes, pre-paid cell phones, medical supplies, diapers, clothing, etc.) to victims/survivors.

Victim Services Request Summary (FY 2021 Cost)

	FTEs	One-Time Costs	Recurring Costs	First Year Cost
(3) Victim Services Counselors	3.00	\$74,904.65	\$272,329.35	\$347,234
(1) Victim Services Supervisor	1.00	\$4,800	\$102,966	\$107,766
Intern Stipend	0	0	\$30,000	\$30,000
Emergency Assistance Fund	0	0	\$15,000	\$15,000
TOTALS	4.00	\$79,704.65	\$420,295.35	\$500,000